

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 177401

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (MOOSE, RICHARD M.)

SUBJECT: WEEKLY ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS - JULY 13, 1978

FOR MOOSE FROM HARROP

I. THE WEEK IN REVIEW

COUP IN MAURITANIA--

AN APPARENT BLOODLESS MILITARY COUP TOOK PLACE IN
NOUAKCHOTT DURING THE NIGHT OF JULY 9-10 AND RESULTED
IN THE OVERTHROW OF MOKHTAR OULD DADDAH'S CIVILIAN
REGIME. MAURITANIA'S CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED;
THE PARLIAMENT AND MAURITANIA'S PEOPLE'S PARTY HAS BEEN
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NOW BEING GOVERNED BY A MILITARY COMMITTEE OF NATIONAL
RECOVERY (MCNR) COMPRISED OF EIGHTEEN SENIOR MILITARY
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FOREIGN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS. THE PRESIDENT
OF THE MCNR IS LT. COL. MOUSTAPHA OULD MOHAMED SALECK,
FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE MAURITANIAN ARMY AND
REPORTEDLY THE LEADER OF THE COUP. EX-PRESIDENT OULD
DADDAH IS REPORTEDLY UNDER HOUSE ARREST ALONG WITH SOME

MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. MANY OF THE OFFICERS IN THE

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POST-SUMMIT BRIEFING OF AFRICANS--

WE HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ARRANGE FOR EITHER DICK COOPER OR BOB HORMATS TO BRIEF NIMEIRI AND OBASANJO ON THE RESULTS OF THE JULY 16-17 BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT. COOPER COULD NOT GET INTO KHARTOUM FROM JIDDAH AND OUT AGAIN WITHIN A REASONABLE TIMEFRAME. HORMATS WAS WILLING TO GO FROM EUROPE TO KHARTOUM ON JULY 19 TO BRIEF BOTH NIMEIRI AND OBASANJO DURING THE OAU SUMMIT. AMBASSADOR BERGUS, HOWEVER, GAVE SEVERAL CONVINCING REASONS FOR NOT DOING THIS DURING THE OAU SUMMIT AND FELT TOPIC COULD WAIT UNTIL NIMEIRI'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO US. AMBASSADOR EASUM ALSO ADVISED AGAINST A BRIEFING DURING OAU SUMMIT AND FELT CONFIDENT OBASANJO COULD BE SATISFACTORILY BRIEFED IN LAGOS THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS.

NAM MEETING--

THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (BELGRADE, JULY 24-29) TAKES PLACE AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED DIVISIVENESS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. SEVERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE WESTERN SAHARA AND MIDDLE EAST, DIVIDE REGIONAL GROUPS. ONE ISSUE, THAT OF CUBA'S AFRICAN INTERVENTION, IS PARTICULARLY DIVISIVE. EGYPT, SOMALIA AND ZAIRE WILL USE THE BELGRADE MEETINGS TO ATTACK CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND ITS PRETENTIONS OF NAM LEADERSHIP. HOST YUGOSLAVIA HAS FORMULATED A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION EMPHASIZING THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR NON-ALIGNED UNITY AND CHASTIZING UNNAMED COUNTRIES FOR FAILING TO "ADHERE CONSISTENTLY" TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THE OUTCOME IS FAR FROM PREDICTABLE, BUT THE WEIGHT OF TRADITION WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF UNITY.

PROPOSED VISIT OF NIMEIRI TO THE US--

PRESIDENT NIMEIRI INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR BERGUS THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN "EXTENDED TOUR" OF THE

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US FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. FROM NEW YORK HE PROPOSES TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN VISIT SIX STATES. WE HAD PROPOSED TO THE SECRETARY THAT NIMEIRI, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU, BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON DURING WHICH HE WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. THIS WOULD CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF BONGO'S RECEPTION LAST YEAR, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT NIMEIRI WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT BLAIR HOUSE.

IN VIEW OF NIMEIRI'S PROPOSED TOUR, THIS MAY NOW PROVE AN AWKWARD PROCEDURE. YET WE SHOULD OFFER NIMEIRI A GREATER DEGREE OF HOSPITALITY THAN WHEN HE MADE A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE 1976 (AT WHICH TIME HE PAID A BRIEF CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD), AND IN KEEPING WITH THE COURTESY ACCORDED TO BONGO. WE WILL PROPOSE AN OFFICIAL CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON AND DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL COURTESIES WHEN WE HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF NIMEIRI'S TRAVEL PLANS. CHRISTOPHER

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S E C R E T STATE 177401

FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 177401 SENT ACTION LUXEMBOURG 13 JUL 78

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POST-SUMMIT BRIEFING OF AFRICANS--
WE HAVE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO ARRANGE FOR EITHER DICK COOPER OR BOB HORMATS TO BRIEF NIMEIRI AND OBASANJO ON THE RESULTS OF THE JULY 16-17 BONN ECONOMIC SUMMIT. COOPER COULD NOT GET INTO KHARTOUM FROM JIDDAH AND OUT AGAIN WITH-

IN A REASONABLE TIMEFRAME. HORMATS WAS WILLING TO GO FROM EUROPE TO KHARTOUM ON JULY 19 TO BRIEF BOTH NIMEIRI AND OBASANJO DURING THE OAU SUMMIT. AMBASSADOR BERGUS, HOWEVER, GAVE SEVERAL CONVINCING REASONS FOR NOT DOING THIS DURING THE OAU SUMMIT AND FELT TOPIC COULD WAIT UNTIL NIMEIRI'S SEPTEMBER VISIT TO US. AMBASSADOR EASUM ALSO ADVISED AGAINST A BRIEFING DURING OAU SUMMIT AND FELT CONFIDENT OBASANJO COULD BE SATISFACTORILY BRIEFED IN LAGOS THROUGH NORMAL CHANNELS.

NAM MEETING--

THE NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING (BELGRADE, JULY 24-29) TAKES PLACE AT A TIME OF UNPRECEDENTED DIVISIVENESS IN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT. SEVERAL ISSUES, INCLUDING THE WESTERN SAHARA AND MIDDLE EAST, DIVIDE REGIONAL GROUPS. ONE ISSUE, THAT OF CUBA'S AFRICAN INTERVENTION, IS PARTICULARLY DIVISIVE. EGYPT, SOMALIA AND ZAIRE WILL USE THE BELGRADE MEETINGS TO ATTACK CUBA'S NON-ALIGNED CREDENTIALS AND ITS PRETENSIONS OF NAM LEADERSHIP. HOST YUGOSLAVIA HAS FORMULATED A COMPROMISE RESOLUTION EMPHASIZING THE OVERRIDING NEED FOR NON-ALIGNED UNITY AND CHASTIZING UNNAMED COUNTRIES FOR FAILING TO "ADHERE CONSISTENTLY" TO THE PRINCIPLES OF NON-ALIGNMENT. THE OUTCOME IS FAR FROM PREDICTABLE, BUT THE WEIGHT OF TRADITION WILL BE ON THE SIDE OF UNITY.

PROPOSED VISIT OF NIMEIRI TO THE US--

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PRESIDENT NIMEIRI INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR BERGUS THIS WEEK THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE AN "EXTENDED TOUR" OF THE US FOLLOWING HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. FROM NEW YORK HE PROPOSES TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR SEVERAL DAYS AND THEN VISIT SIX STATES. WE HAD PROPOSED TO THE SECRETARY THAT NIMEIRI, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU, BE RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT CARTER IN WASHINGTON DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON DURING WHICH HE WOULD PAY AN OFFICIAL CALL ON THE PRESIDENT. THIS WOULD CONFORM TO THE PATTERN OF BONGO'S RECEPTION LAST YEAR, WITH THE EXCEPTION THAT NIMEIRI WOULD BE PERMITTED TO SPEND THE NIGHT AT BLAIR HOUSE.

IN VIEW OF NIMEIRI'S PROPOSED TOUR, THIS MAY NOW PROVE AN AWKWARD PROCEDURE. YET WE SHOULD OFFER NIMEIRI A GREATER DEGREE OF HOSPITALITY THAN WHEN HE MADE A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US IN JUNE 1976 (AT WHICH TIME HE PAID A BRIEF CALL ON PRESIDENT FORD), AND IN KEEPING WITH THE COURTESY ACCORDED TO BONGO. WE WILL PROPOSE AN OFFICIAL CALL ON THE PRESIDENT IN WASHINGTON AND DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL COURTESIES WHEN WE HAVE A CLEAR IDEA OF NIMEIRI'S TRAVEL PLANS. CHRISTOPHER

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

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